



T H E

Christian History,

Saturday MARCH 5. 1743. N^o. I.

To be publish'd Weekly ;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival
of Religion ; more particularly

- I. Authentick Accounts from Ministers and other creditable Persons of the Revival of Religion in the several Parts of NEW ENGLAND.
- II. Extracts of the most remarkable Pieces in the *weekly Histories* of Religion, and other *Accounts*, PRINTED both in *England* and *Scotland*.
- III. Extracts of WRITTEN LETTERS both from *England*, *Scotland*, *New-York*, *New-Jersey*, *Pennsylvania*, *South-Carolina*, and *Georgia* of a religious Nature, as they shall be sent hither from creditable Persons and communicated to us.
- IV. In Intervals of fresh Occurences, and on other Occasions, it is proposed to give the Reader the *most remarkable Passages Historical and Doctrinal*, out of the most famous OLD WRITERS both of the Church of *England* and *Scotland* from the Reformation, as also the *first Settlers* of *New-England* and their *Children* : that we may see how far their pious *Principles* and *Spirit* are at this Day revived ; and may also guard against all Extreams.

Psal. 26. 7. *That I may PUBLISH with the Voice of THANKS-
GIVING, and tell of all THY WONDROUS WORKS.*

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for THOMAS PRINCE, JUNR. A. B.

Advertisement.

TIS at the earnest Desire of many Persons of Piety and Judgment, *Lovers* of the peculiar Doctrines Power and Practice of the Christian Religion, as they were promoted by the *purer Part* of the *old Church of England* from the Days of the Reformation, and by the renowned *Settlers* of *NEW-ENGLAND*; *who* therefore heartily rejoyce to see and hear of their Revival both in *Great Britain & America*; and for the Advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom and Glory, that the *PRESENT WORK* is undertaken: Which therefore will be wholly confined to *Matters of Religion*, and no Advertisement inserted but of Books and Pamphlets or other Things of a religious Importance.

It will continue to be printed in the *same Form*, with the *same large Page* as the present, and on *good Paper & Character*; & at the *End* of the *Year* will be a *Title-Page & Index* to the whole, for those who may be disposed to preserve and bind them.---At the Rate of *two Shillings* new Tenor per *Quarter*, deliver'd at any House in *Town* unenclosed; and *6d.* new Tenor more per *Quarter*, inclos'd, seal'd, & directed.

All that wou'd encourage the printing of *this Paper*, are desired, as soon as they can to send their *Subscriptions & Letters*, free of Charge, to the *Publisher*, at his Father's the Rev^d. *Mr. Prince's* in *Boston*: And in their Letters to direct us *where* to deliver or send their Paper & *whether* to enclose or not. And if a considerable Number of the *Subscribers* wou'd please to send their *FIRST QUARTER'S PAY* with their *SUBSCRIPTIONS*; it wou'd be a great Encouragement to go on with the *Work*, and enable us to it.

Ministers and other Persons of Credit and of religious Dispositions in the several Parts of the *American Plantations* where there has been a Revival of Religion, are desired to send their *Informations*, as free of Charge as possible, to the *Publisher* of this Paper: studiously avoiding Personal Reflections and angry Controversy, but relating plain & certain Facts and subscribing their Names: Since to a nameless Relation of Matters of Fact, no wise Man can give any Credit; as he knows not but the Writer may be one of the least creditable Persons on Earth, and wou'd be known to be so, were his Name divulged.

AS cold Water to a thirsty Soul, so is good News from a far Country: So Solomon observed in his Day; and so we find it in ours. And as the Church of SCOTLAND, for her *sound Doctrines* and *pious Spirit* express'd in the Writings of her *eminent Divines*, has been ever dear to *New-England*; the intelligent and good People here have always mourn'd for her *Declensions* and *Adversities*, and rejoiced to hear of her *Revivals* and *Prosperities*. And as our pious People were, last Summer, greatly refresh'd with the glad Tidings arriv'd and reprinted here, of a remarkable Revival of Religion at *Cambuslang*; we doubt not they will be yet the more rejoiced to hear of the further Progress of that blessed Work, at *Killyth* and *other Congregations* There, in a surprizing *History* just arriv'd. It was compos'd by the Reverend and Excellent Mr. *Robe*, with great Modesty, Care and Judgment; to which are added a few Notes in the Margin,--- and is as follows ---

A Faithful NARRATIVE of the Extraordinary Work of the SPIRIT OF GOD at Killyth and other Congregations in the Neighbourhood.

By J. A. ROBE, A.M. Minister of the Gospel at *Killyth*.

The P R E F A C E.

IS transporting and astonishing, that after all the great and horrid Provocations we have given the most High in this Church and Land, by growing Deism and Infidelity, Carnality and Profanity, Formality and Hypocrisy, our bitter Envyings and unreasonable Divisions; but most of all by a general rejecting of the blessed Son of God by Unbelief, and using Gospel Ordinances contentedly without feeling the Power of them; the Lord hath been so far from utterly forsaking us, and making our Country desolate by some destroying Judgment, that he is in *Wrath remembering Mercy*, and beginning manifestly to revive his Work, and help us in such a Situation, as was become hopeless and helpless by any humane possible Means.

There hath been a great and just Complaint amongst godly Ministers and Christians of the elder Sort, who had seen better

Days, that for some Years past, there hath been a sensible Decay as to the Life and Power of Godliness. *Iniquity abounded and the Love of many waxed cold.* Our Defection from the Lord, and Backsliding increased fast to a dreadful Apostacy. While the Government, Worship and Doctrine, established in this Church were retained in Profession; there hath been an universal Corruption of Life, reaching even unto the Sons and Daughters of God. Former Strictness as to Holiness, and tenderness of Life was much relaxed among both Ministers and People of the better Sort: A formal Round of professional Duties was the Religion of the Professors, and in this they rested. As to the Multitude they were visibly profane, and without any Sense of Religion at all. Things were become so bad with us, that there were few, we the Ministers of the Word, could comfort as Believers in Christ, and exhort to rejoice in Hope of the Glory of God, when we found them a dying. All this was observed by some, and looked upon as the Cause of God's Controversy with us; and what they feared wou'd provoke him to send some desolating Judgment, to avenge the Quarrel of his thus broken Covenant: And in this View they gave Warning as Occasion offered.

It is one of Satan's Devices, to engage some distressed Souls, to be deeply exercised about those Things which either are not their Sins, or among the least of them; that thereby he may divert them from minding their greatest Sins, and those which are the Cause of God's Controversy with them. Some zealous good Men, both Ministers and others, fell unwarily into this Snare. They looked upon some Things of Mismanagement in Government and Discipline, which others were dissatisfied with as well as they, with such Earnestness, that they cried out against them as the most crying Sins, the Cause of the Lord's Controversy with us, portending dreadful Judgments, and what corrupted the Church so far as nothing could secure the Salvation of her Members, but coming out of her, and separating from her. Hereby they were led to overlook what was our greatest Evil, and the Cause of God's Controversy with us, namely, the Corruption of the Lives of the Members of this Church, and that we had a Name to live, while we were in a great Measure dead, as to Faith, Love to God and one another, and other Branches of Holiness.

This unhappily filled the Heads and Mouths of the most of Professors to such a Degree, as to mind and converse about
nothing

nothing, even upon the Lord's-Day ; but Ministers, Church-Judicatories, and some other disputable Things, far from the *Vitals* of Religion. The *State of their Souls* was much forgotten, and they were either disaffected to their worthy Ministers, and the Lord's Ordinances dispensed by them ; or if they attended, they were diverted by those Things from a Concern about their *Regeneration, Conversion, and amending their Ways and Doings*, which were not good. Wherever our lamentable Divisions prevailed, serious Religion declined to a Shadow.

All this while we had a dead and barren Time. *The Work of Conversion* went but slowly and indiscernibly on. The Influences of the Holy Spirit were restrained. The Lord's Presence was much withdrawn, and the Power of his Grace little exerted and put forth ; so that the Gospel had but small Success, either for bringing Souls to Jesus Christ, or for quickning and refreshing real Christians. Ministers and godly Christians, who observed these Things with Sorrow, were filled with Fears lest the Lord had poured forth a Spirit of deep Sleep upon this Generation, and given unto his Servants the Commission he gave unto the Evangelical Prophet *Isaiah*, *Isa. vi. 9, 10, 11, 12. And he said, Go, and tell this People, Hear ye indeed, but understand not ; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the Heart of this People fat, and make their Ears heavy, and shut their Eyes : Lest they see with their Eyes, and hear with their Ears, and understand with their Heart, and convert and be healed. Then said I, Lord, How long ? And he answered, Until the Cities be wasted without Inhabitant, and the Houses without Man, and the Land be utterly desolate, and the Lord have removed Men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the Midst of the Land.* Several Ministers gave Warning to their People, that they were afraid lest these spiritual Judgments most frequent in New-Testament Times were inflicted upon many of them, and might be further (a).

Things being come to this Extremity, it was the Lord's Opportunity to glorify his Name in a Way surprising to us,

(a) In this and in the *Two first Paragraphs* Mr. *Robe* as lively describes the deploable Declension of vital Religion in *New-England*, as well as *Scotland* ; as continually lamented by our elderly pious Ministers in their publick Prayers, and *Sermons* both printed and unprinted.

and peculiar to himself. We were going on frowardly in the Way of our Heart, notwithstanding a Variety of finiting Judgments and alluring Mercies; he in his sovereign Mercy and Goodness, hath begun to see our Ways and heal them. When nothing else could help and prevent our Ruin, and we were Proof against all other Dispensations; he hath visited us with such a Dispensation of his Spirit, as is sufficient to do it, and which we pray that it may, and hope that it shall be general unto the whole Church and Land. This extraordinary Outpouring of the Holy Spirit, whereby great Numbers of secure Sinners are awakened, and many of these converted, and filled with Faith, and more than ordinary Peace and Joy in Believing, appeared first upon the 18th of *February* last, and continues at *Cambuslang*, a little Parish within four Miles of the *South-East* of *Glasgow*. A well attested *Narrative* of this hath been published.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that this sensible Presence and Power of the Holy Ghost, hath not been confined to that highly favoured Parish: But began to visit us upon the last *Sabbath* of *April* last, being the 25th Day of that Month, as it did also soon after *several other Congregations* lying to the *North*, *North-East* and *North-West* of *Glasgow*. This Work so extraordinary upon the Souls of many in these Congregations is the same with that at *Cambuslang*. The Method of the Spirit's Operation is alike in all these Congregations; and the Effects of it upon the Bodies of the awakened, which have not been so common at other Times, are also much the same.

The Bodies of some of the Awakened are seized with Trembling, Fainting, Hysterisms in some few Women, and with convulsive Motions in some others, arising from that Apprehension and Fear of the Wrath of God, they are convinced they are under, and liable to because of their Sins. They have a quick Apprehension of the Greatness and Dreadfulness of this Wrath before they are affected.

These Effects upon the Bodies of some of the Awakened have been objected against this Work, by many. And some have not been afraid to ascribe it to the Devil, and to traduce the whole as Delusion.

As there were the very same *Appearances* accompanying such an Effusion of the Holy Spirit in some of our *American Colonies*; so the same *Objections* were made against them, which have

have been made against this Appearance of God among us. This hath occasioned the Reverend and Judicious Mr. Edwards, Minister of the Gospel at Northampton in New-England to preach and publish a *Sermon upon the distinguishing Marks of a Work of the Spirit of God*, wherein he satisfyingly answers and takes off the 'foresaid Objections. It would be superfluous and unnecessary to answer apart after him, seeing this *Sermon* hath been oftener than once reprinted in North Britain, and is and will be in as many Hands, as any other Answer probably can, with this Advantage, that by the surprising Direction of Providence it comes from one in a foreign Country, who preached and published it long before this Appearance of the Lord in his Glory and Majesty amongst us.

I cannot however forbear to observe and offer the following Remarks to the Reader.

First, That there are some who do not cry out in the Congregation, neither have any of the 'foresaid bodily Seizures, who have been under a Law-Work for some Months, and are, as far as we can know the State of another, savingly converted: And there are others who have been under the severest bodily Distress, in whom the Work of Conviction and Conversion, as to the main Strokes of them, answer to the former as Face to Face in a Glass (*b*). Is it possible then that any thinking Person will conclude that all is Delusion with the latter, merely because their Bodies were strangely disordered, when they were at first awakened to feel themselves in a State of Sin and Wrath, seeing there are the very same uncontested Evidences of the Conversion of the *Last* as there are of the *First*.

2dly, There are few observing Persons who have not seen sudden Fears, and great Sorrow upon worldly Grounds, cause Faintings, Histerick-Fits, Convulsions, bodily Agonies and Strugglings. The Apostle saith, *Worldly Sorrow worketh Death*. What Reason can be assigned, why legal Terrors and Fears, a strong Apprehension of the Wrath of God in Persons who know not but the Sentence of Condemnation may be executed upon them immediately, should not have the like Effects upon their Bodies? Especially considering that the Cause and Reasons of their Fears are incomparably juster and greater. Several of us Ministers have long ere now seen Persons distracted as *Heman* was, with the Terrors of God.

(b) Just so it has been in New-England.

3dly, There is much Reason to conclude that the Work of God in converting many in several Parishes in the Shire of *Aire*, and other Places of the *West* from 1625 to 1630 was attended with much the same Appearances as this now. It was called the *Stewarton* Sickness by the Malignants, because of the bodily Distress which accompanied it. I shall transcribe the short Account which the *Author* of the *Fulfilling of the Scripture* gives of it, Page 264. ' I must here instance a very ' solemn, and extraordinary Outletting of the Spirit, which ' about the Year 1625, and thereafter was in the *West* of ' *Scotland*, whilst the Persecution of the Church there, was hot ' from the *Prelatick* Party. This by the profane Rabble of ' that Time, was called the *Stewarton* Sickness; for in that ' Parish first, but after through much of the Country, particularly at *Irvine*, under the Ministry of the famous Mr. ' *Dickson* was most remarkable; where it can be said (which ' diverse Ministers and Christians yet alive can witness) that ' for a considerable Time, few *Sabbaths* did pass without some ' eminently converted, and some convincing Proof of the ' Power of God accompanying his Word; yea that many ' were so choaked and taken by the Heart, that thro' Terror, ' the Spirit in such a Measure convincing them of Sin, in ' hearing of the Word, they have been made to fall over, and ' thus carried out of the Church, who afterward proved most ' solid and lively Christians: And as it was known some of the ' most gross who used to mock at Religion, being engaged ' upon the Fame that went abroad of such Things, to go to ' some of these Parts where the Gospel was then most lively, ' have been effectually reached before their Return, with a ' visible Change following the same. And truly, this great ' *Spring-Tide*, which I may so call, of the Gospel, was not of ' a short Time, but for some Years Continuance: Yea, Thus ' like a spreading Moor-burn, the Power of Godliness did advance from one Place to another, which put a marvellous ' Lustre on these Parts of the Country, the Savour whereof ' bro't many from other Parts of the Land to see the Truth of ' the same.' The Similitude & Likeness of this Work amongst us unto that referred to, seems evident; and can these bodily Effects mentioned be just Grounds of Objection against this Work now, and not also against the other?

(To be continued.)